

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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LACOUR EVANGELISTIC TEAM BEGINS 1958 CAMPAIGN

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lacour, with thirty-one other American workers for the 1958 summer evangelistic efforts, arrived by air from Seattle on Wednesday morning, July 9th, and quickly entered into an intensive round of orientation conference and receptions, preliminary to departure to their respective centers of work.

The Lacour Team is now operating under the direction of the Central Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan, instead of under the Centenary Evangelism Committee of the National Christian Council. Leaders of the United Church and certain missionary leaders connected with the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan assisted in the orientation briefing process. The Kyo Bun Kan, AVACO, the Church School Department of the NCC, and other agencies which serve the Christian cause, supplied samples of literature, slides, and other materials, for the selection and use by the American ministers and the staffs of the Centers where they are to be located.

In alphabetical order the visiting workers are: Dr. Kenneth Adams, Fresno, California, Rev. Howard Bailey, Philadelphia, Rev. Harold Camp, Upland, Indiana, Rev. Sheldon Duecker, Muncie, Indiana, Rev. and Mrs. Jerold Ellison, Philadelphia, Rev. Edgar Erdmann, Grand Forks, N. Dakota, Rev. Gerald Ford, San Jose, California, Rev. Walter Forred, Vermillion, South Dakota, Rev. James Hempstead, Alhambra, California, Rev. James Hillis, Paragould, Arkansas, Rev. Edwin Hoefer, Elgin, Illinois, Dr. and Mrs. Kelly Jackson, Washington, D. C., Rev. Given Kutz, Grafton, N. Dakota, Dr. and Mrs. L. Lacour, Nashville, Tenn., Rev. and Mrs. George Lurwick, Bryn Mawr, Penn., Rev. Howard Miller, Huron, S. Dakota, Rev. Owen Miller, Hartford, Wisconsin, Dr. Robt. Moon, San Leandro, California, Rev. Oscar Newby, Monrovia, California, Rev. Orville Pearson, Princeton, Ky., Rev. Glen Riddell, Chico, California, Rev. Wilbur Sanders, Sacramento, California, Rev. & Mrs. Wm. Shaffer, Philadelphia, Dr. Edward Stimson, Omaha, Nebraska, Rev. & Mrs. Horace Thurston, Royal Oak, Michigan, Rev. & Mrs. Robert Yunker, Mishawaka, Indiana.

Denominations represented in the party are, Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical-United Brethren, Evangelical-Reformed (now part of the United Church of Christ) Community Church, and the experience of working together as one, without sense of denominational difference, within the framework of the United Church of Christ in Japan, during the summer, is a real ecumenical challenge to each one, and to the denomination with which he is connected in the States. This is a distinct contribution of the Lacour plan of missionary evangelism, and has attracted much notice in the Christian circles of the world. There are, of course, hundreds of full-time missionaries working with United Churches in various countries, including about four hundred working in the United Church of Christ in Japan, but the distinct feature of the Lacour Mission, in this regard, is that the missionaries are pastors of local churches in the United States, who can carry back, from their summer's experience here, a heightened ecumenical message for their own congregations and denominations at home.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES CONFERENCE

"Toward Maturity" will be the theme of the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries Conference to be held at Lake Nojiri in Nagano Prefecture July 29-31. The emphasis will be on a "withdrawal to be with Christ rather than on much speaking, debating, and theologising" according to the Rev. Raymond J. Hammer, President of the organization and English born - Oxford educated professor at the Episcopalian Seminary in Tokyo.

Since this Summer will find most of the missionaries in one conference or another in connection with the 14th World Convention on Christian Education being held in Tokyo, the planning committee has set up a program in which missionaries may come apart and think together about pressing toward the mark of the "high calling in Christ Jesus". The speakers will include Pastor Haines of the Tokyo Union Church who is to give practical guidance on the Christian at Prayer and the Church at Prayer; Dr. F. J. Huegel of Mexico who will open up the scriptures on the subject of Prayer in the Life of Jesus and in the Apostolic Church; and Bishop Mueller of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in the States who will speak on "Our Continuing Task".

Another special feature of the conference is to be a panel presentation of the topic "The Mission of the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries". This discussion is expected to open up the subject of what the missionaries expect of their Japan-wide organization and how it may best achieve its objectives.

OVERSEAS DELEGATES BEGIN ARRIVING FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONCLAVE

The reception committee for the 14th World Convention on Christian Education has already begun its work at the harbor in Yokohama and at the Tokyo International Airport receiving guests from the overseas churches. The Institute on Christian Education with limited membership of less than 300 will open in four days at Kobe and Seiwa Colleges in the Kansai Area.

A special design for a "Yukata", Japanese summer kimono, has been developed for the Convention this Summer and is available at Tokyo's outstanding department stores. Woven into the cotton fabric is the symbol of the Convention. The Japanese men on the welcoming committee will be wearing sport shirts made from this "yukata" material and many of the ladies are already planning their kimono costume for the convention from this material.

MISSIONARIES BEGIN SUMMER VACATION PERIOD

Part of the renewal and blessing of missionary life in Japan is the retreat in the Summer to the hillside of Lake Nojiri in Nagano Prefecture. As of Saturday, July 12, 77 adults and 93 children were registered at the office of the Nojiri Lake Association. A full church school and worship service program is planned along with the recreational facilities. Also during the month of August there are theological discussion groups, and a Junior Activities program of crafts and skills for the younger generation.

The preachers for the Sunday morning services this year are: July 13, The Rev. Edward Van Baak, Christian Reformed Church; July 20, The Rev. Raymond J. Hammer, Church of England; July 27, Dr. T. N. Callaway, Southern Baptist; August 3, Dr. John H. McCombe, Pastor of The Asbury Methodist Church, Tackahoe, New York; August 10, Dr. J. Allan Ranck, General Director for the Commission on Missionary Education, New York; August 17, The Rev. Conrad Aamodt, Evangelical Lutheran Church; The Rev. Harry Engeman, and on August 31, The Rev. Leif Solomonsen, Norwegian Lutheran missionary. The Rev. Dr. Richard Drummond, United Church of Christ missionary, is in charge of the Japanese language services for the Summer.

